IN SUMMARY

Serving Hispanic Youths
The Children's Defense Fund has called for a major effort to better educational services for Hispanic youths, the nation's fastest growing but most undereducated ethnic group. **Page 4.**

No Military Panacea
A new Pentagon-funded study debunks the belief that military service gives low-aptitude young adults economic and educational advantages over their nonveteran peers later in life. **Page 5.**

An Ironic Twist
The National Asssociation for the Advancement of Colored People is using a controversial Supreme Court decision it disagrees with to support a school-desegregation lawsuit in Louisiana. **Page 8.**

A Certified Dispute
The Association of Teacher Educators is the latest national group to ask the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to rethink who is eligible for national teacher certification. **Page 11.**

A Ban on Teacher Strikes?
Hoping to end lengthy, bitter labor disputes, California's superintendent last week endorsed a bill to ban teacher strikes and impose binding arbitration in some cases. **Page 14.**

Peer Review Protected
With the two state teachers' unions hotly divided on the issue, the Ohio legislature last week agreed to modify state labor law to protect peer-review teacher-assessment programs. **Page 14.**

Chapter 1 Rule Struck
For the second time in recent months, a federal judge has struck down an Education Department rule governing the allocation of Chapter 1 aid to pupils in parochial schools. **Page 25.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Coors Establishes $40-Million National Campaign for Literacy

The Coors Brewing Company has announced that it is launching a five-year, $40-million campaign to promote literacy.

Most of the funds will be used for a public-awareness campaign that will include television, radio, and print advertisements, as well as billboard messages that will encourage the illiterate to seek help and to encourage readers to become literacy tutors.

The "Literacy—Pass it On" campaign, which will be run by the Coors Foundation for Family Literacy, has also given $250,000 to each of three national literacy groups: SER-Jobs for Progress, Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, and the National Volunteer Literacy Campaign.

The program will also include a seven-city concert tour to be held in partnership with the MCA Music Entertainment Group. Performers are expected to include Smokey Robinson and Sheena Easton. The foundation will distribute proceeds from the tour to literacy groups.

Average Annual Salary for Teachers Now Tops $30,000, Survey Finds

The average salary for a public-school teacher in this country topped $30,000 for the first time this year, according to a national survey by the Educational Research Service.

The independent research organization said the average public-school teacher's salary increased by 5.6 percent over last year—from $29,608 to $31,278. Most of that increase, however, was offset by an inflation rate of 4.8 percent during the same period.

The highest average salaries were found in the Far West ($35,310), Mid-Atlantic ($34,689), New England ($33,964), and Great Lakes states ($33,425). Salaries fell below the national average in the Plains ($27,874), Mountain ($27,542), Southeast ($26,883), and Southwest states ($26,355.)

The average salary for public-school superintendents rose by 5.9 percent, to $75,425, up from $71,190 last year, the survey found.

STATES

Potentially Explosive Ether Removed From Four N.Y. Schools

New York officials have removed canisters of potentially explosive ether from four schools where they have been stored as emergency medical supplies since the 1960's.

The supplies were removed from Attica Central School, Attica; Lakeshore Central High School, Angola; South Louis Central School, Port Leyden; and Beaver Falls School, Beaver Falls.

The schools were among the approximately 2,000 sites nationwide equipped with materials for "packaged disaster hospitals" by the federal government more than 20 years ago. The program was designed to provide care for casualties that could result from a nuclear attack or natural disaster. The sites, which included other public buildings, were equipped with enough medical supplies for a 200-person emergency hospital. The ether included in the supplies can explode if jostled.

When the federal government discontinued the program in the early 1970's, it advised states to dispose of these potentially harmful materials. Federal officials said last week that they did not know how many schools are still storing these aging medical supplies, or how many states and local officials have removed the supplies.

New York state officials discovered the ether last month when they conducted a survey of packaged disaster hospitals. The inspections were prompted by reports that two other elementary schools were storing medical supplies that included ether. The schools were evacuated, but no ether was found.

■ **Districts in New Hampshire would be given greater flexibility to meet standards for elementary schools**, under a plan proposed by the state board of education.

Under current rules, adopted in 1987, schools must employ certified librarians, music and art specialists, and a specified number of teachers and administrators, among other criteria, to receive state approval. The new proposal would enable schools to present a plan to the state board demonstrating that they can provide the needed services without the required staff.

"This is not an attempt to water down the standards," said Judith Fillion, director of the state department of education's division of standards and certification. "It is an attempt to allow school districts to be innovative in the ways they meet the standards."

But Marilyn Monahan, president of the New Hampshire branch of the National Education Association, called the new standards "sub-minimal," and vowed to oppose them.

"Rather than deal with the standards the board said were necessary, and how to finance them," she said, "the board said, 'Let's change the standards.' "

The board is expected to give final approval to the plan following a series of four public hearings that began last week. It would go into effect after a review by a legislative committee.

■ **The rapidly changing political landscape of Eastern Europe has prompted the North Carolina Department of Education to withdraw three now-outdated questions from its forthcoming 6th-grade social-studies test.**

The questions from the three-year-old test asked students to identify a reason why the government of Czechoslovakia is friendly to the Soviet Union; which among four countries (Albania, Cuba, the United States, and Poland) has a democratic government; and for which kind of candidates Soviet citizens are expected to vote in an election.

Written instructions for the 60-question test, which is scheduled to be administered the week of March 19, had suggested that teachers tell students to answer the questions as though the region's moves toward democracy over the past six months had not happened, according to Kay Mitchell, a spokesman for the department.

However, she said, top department officials rejected that idea, and instead decided to scrap the questions. She added that the department would also revise tests for 3rd and 8th graders, which will be administered in later years.

Be Prepared, 1990's-Style

The 1980's was a period of such rapid and profound societal and environmental change that even one of the most venerable of American institutions has begun scrambling to adapt.

In an effort to keep pace with the times, the Boy Scouts of America last month unveiled a new and extensively revised *Boy Scout Handbook*.

Scouts are, of course, still urged to "be prepared." But beyond the traditional instruction in how to tie knots, use a compass, and build a campfire, the new *Handbook*, by addressing such contemporary problems as drug and child abuse and illiteracy, seeks to help boys cope with life in the 1990's.

The changes, said Lee Sneath, a national spokesman for the Dallas-based Boy Scouts of America, are part of a decade-long effort to modernize the 80-year-old organization and boost its membership, which in 1979 had fallen to 3.1 million from 4.8 million in 1972. Currently, Mr. Sneath said, the Scouts have approximately 4.3 million members, ages 6 to 20.

"As the nation's largest youth-development organization," he said, the Boy Scouts have chosen to combat five social ills that the organization terms "unacceptables": child abuse, drug abuse, functional illiteracy, hunger, and youth unemployment.

"If young people can be protected from child and drug abuse, learn to read, and be fed," he observed, "then they will be better prepared for the job market."

Reflecting this outlook, one of the more significant changes in the 645-page *Handbook* is a new 24-page insert on the dangers of child and drug abuse. Before becoming a Boy Scout, Mr. Sneath said, a boy and his parents must work through the insert and sign off on it. "We want boys today to be aware of the environment around them, and, unfortunately, today's world has child and drug abuse," he said.

The 10th edition of the *Handbook* also places additional emphasis on an "environmentally gentle" approach to camping. This "low-impact, no-trace camping," Mr. Sneath explained, instructs Scouts to leave a campsite in better condition than they found it.

And finally, beyond being written in a more "interesting and readable" manner, he said, the new *Handbook* features more than 900 color photographs of "real Scouts doing real Scouting things."

Clearly, the time has passed when Norman Rockwell's images and the prospects of outdoor adventure and merit badges were inspirational enough to lure generations of boys into the Boy Scouts' ranks. —J.W.

DISTRICTS

Decisions Not To Retain Principals In Chicago Spark Protests

Protests broke out at six Chicago schools last week after their newly created local school councils decided not to retain their current principals.

While most of the demonstrations were peaceful walkouts, students clashed with police at one school, leaving 10 slightly injured. Ten students were arrested in the incident, according to a district spokesman.

Under the 1988 state law guiding Chicago's reform efforts, councils at one-half of the district's roughly 540 schools have the option this year of dismissing their current principal and seeking a replacement. The rest of the schools will have the same choice next year.

A new survey suggests that last week's protests are an anomoly, and that most of the councils have functioned smoothly in their first months.

Only 22 percent of the nearly 700 councils members who responded to the survey agreed with the statement, "Right now, my council has serious problems getting work done."

Parents, teachers, and principals who serve on the councils overwhelmingly agreed that greater parental involvement is the most urgent need at their schools. The councils have a minimum of six parent members, two teachers, two community representatives, and the school's principal.

The survey results were published in the inaugural issue of *Catalyst: Voices of Chicago School Reform*, a journal designed as a resource for council members and others interested in the city's reform efforts.

For more information or to request a free subscription, write *Catalyst*, 332 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill., 60604-9863.

■ **The Providence, R.I., school board will appeal a federal court decision banning even a nondenominational prayer during school commencement exercises.**

The board voted last month to ask the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit to review the ruling in *Weisman* v. *Lee*, in which the U.S. District Court for Rhode Island ruled in January that a prayer offered during commencement violated the First Amendment's ban against government establishment of religion.

The district had argued that the prayer was constitutional because it was nondenominational and participation was voluntary. In a similar case elsewhere, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has ruled that nondenominational prayers are permissible if they do not favor one religious view.

■ **Nearly 2,600 New York City teachers who were hired under emergency waivers in the 1980's have not received the assistance of mentor teachers, as required under state law,** the United Federation of Teachers has charged.

In recent testimony on Chancellor Joseph A. Fernandez's proposed budget for 1990-91, union officials estimated that more than two-thirds of the city's districts and high schools have not complied with the mentoring law.

The teachers, who lack state certification, were hired to meet severe personnel shortages.

As of last September, said Susan Amlung, a union spokesman, 5,000 city teachers were eligible for mentoring assistance. Of that number, 2,600 have not received training.

"It's clearly a question of will and commitment," Ms. Amlung said. "There's been no enforcement."

Mr. Fernandez recently sent letters to several districts that have not provided the mentor teachers, reminding them of the law.

DIMENSIONS

The Urban Superintendent

The typical superintendent of an urban school district is white, over age 50, and likely to have fewer than 10 years' experience as a superintendent, according to data compiled by the National School Boards Association.

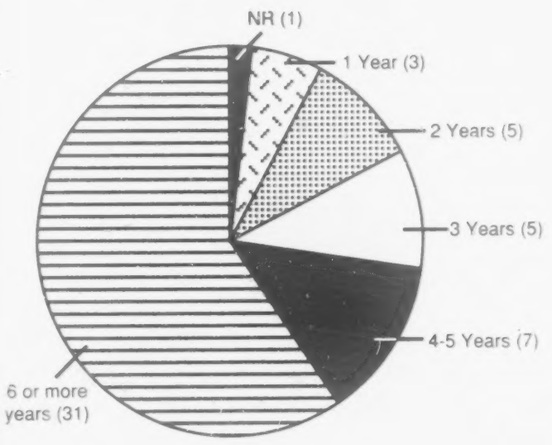
The N.S.B.A.'s triennial survey of urban districts reports that 14 of the 52 superintendents responding had a total of 1 to 4 years of experience as a superintendent in any district, and 13 had 5 to 9 years on the job. The vast majority, 36, of those who responded had been superintendent in their current district for 5 years or less, and 14 had been in their jobs more than 5 years. Twenty-seven superintendents were not in their current positions in 1986.

The average salary for an urban superintendent in the survey was $93,149, a 20 percent increase since the 1985-86 survey. Nine districts surveyed paid their superintendents more than $100,000.

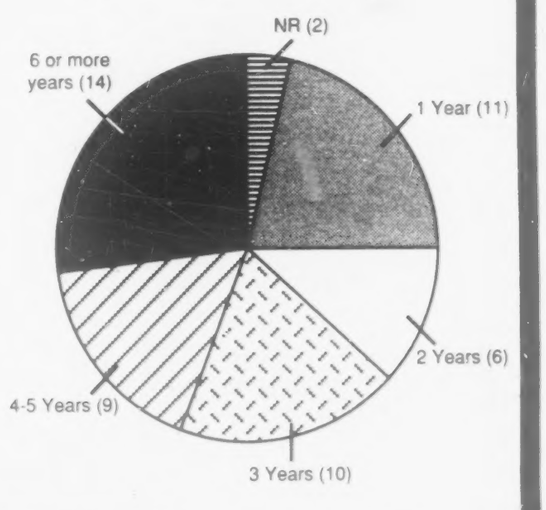
Of those who responded, 31 were white, 14 were black, 5 were Hispanic, and 1 was Native American. One superintendent was age 30 to 40, 22 were age 41 to 50, and 28 were over age 50.

Copies of the report, "A Survey of Public Education in the Nation's Urban School Districts: 1989," are available for $35 each from the Special Program Services Department, N.S.B.A., 1680 Duke St., Alexandria, Va. 22314.

Superintendent's Experience in Any District
(number of districts responding)



Superintendent's Experience in Current District
(number of districts responding)



Source: NSBA "Survey of Public Education in the Nation's Urban School Districts: 1989"

UPDATE

■ **Officials at the University of California at Los Angeles have announced plans to move ahead with a controversial proposal to turn the university's renowned laboratory school over to a local public-school district.** *(See Education Week, Jan. 17, 1990.)*

Murray L. Schwartz, the university's executive vice chancellor, announced last month that the university would "work toward a final agreement" with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District on the proposal to turn the lab school over to Santa Monica.

Under the plan, the school, known as the Corinne A. Seeds University Elementary School, would essentially join the public-school system. The university, however, would continue to staff and operate the school under a long-term contract with the district.

■ **The parents of a student killed in the worst school-bus crash in Texas history have reached an out-of-court settlement for at least $2.7 million over 35 years.**

The agreement was reached with the Valley Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Inc., whose truck collided with the school bus in Hidalgo County, killing 21 and injuring 60. *(See Education Week, Sept. 27, 1989.)*

Raul and Marguerite Ortega, who lost a son in the accident, will receive lifelong monthly payments of about $4,000 that will grow to $7,000, according to their lawyer.

This is the first settlement reached between the firm and a family involved in the crash. The company faces about 50 other civil lawsuits resulting from the crash.

The driver of the truck faces 21 criminal counts of involuntary manslaughter.

■ **The Cleveland school board and the district's superintendent last week reached an agreement that will end a protracted legal standoff between the two parties and avert a threatened state takeover of Ohio's largest school district.** *(See Education Week, Feb. 7, 1990.)*

The terms of the settlement were not disclosed, but state officials had insisted that the superintendent, Alfred D. Tutela, drop a lawsuit against three current and one former board member alleging that they had violated his free-speech rights.

The board agreed to fund "reasonable attorney's fees and litigation expenses" for the superintendent, but he "will not be receiving a dime in damages," according to a written statement from Stanley E. Tolliver Sr., president of the board of education.

State officials had also demanded that the board rescind a resolution calling for Mr. Tutela's dismissal. It was not clear last week whether the board had agreed to let Mr. Tutela serve out the remainder of his contract, which expires in August 1991.

Some school-board members said that the resolution of the matter could clear the way for the district to petition for release from its long-running desegregation case, which has been one of the major issues in the dispute between the two parties.

■ **Two school districts in North Carolina have sued the state board of education over its attempt to bar public schools from using Whittle Communications' "Channel One" news program.**

The state board sued the Thomasville district for signing a contract after the state board passed an emergency rule barring districts from signing up for Channel One. *(See Education Week, Feb. 27, 1990.)*

Both the Thomasville district and the Davidson County school board sued the state board Feb. 23, seeking to overturn the board's ban on Channel One.

Meanwhile, a state administrative law judge has ruled that the state board did not have good reason to pass the emergency restriction on Channel One. The board must hold a public hearing before its adopted restrictions can go into effect, the judge said.

PEOPLE

■ Having retired from gridiron battles with his rivals in the Big Ten conference, **Bo Schembechler**, the former University of Michigan football coach, appears to have found a new opponent: the Detroit School Board.

The former coach found himself scrambling from a blitz of board criticism last month after he was quoted as saying that public schools in Detroit and Flint, Mich., suffer because their teachers come "from some place down South or some godforsaken places and schools that I've never heard of."

Kay Everett, a Detroit school-board member, expressed outrage at Mr. Schembechler's remarks, and later invited him to meet with school officials and find ways to help the schools he had criticized.

Mr. Schembechler, now the president of the Detroit Tigers, wrote letters to Ms. Everett and other educators saying that he had not intended to demean teachers in Detroit or other parts of the state. He declined Ms. Everett's invitation to go to bat for the schools, however, saying he is unable at this time to serve in a political position, a Detroit Tigers spokesman said.

■ **Jaime Escalante** caused a stir last month when reports that the renowned calculus teacher was leaving Garfield High School in East Los Angeles were splashed across the front page of the city's largest Spanish-language newspaper, *La Opinion*.

Mr. Escalante, whose success teaching calculus to disadvantaged Hispanic students was chronicled in the hit movie "Stand and Deliver," was frustrated over the decision of some students to drop calculus in favor of after-school sports or part-time jobs.

Since he first arrived at the school in 1974, Mr. Escalante has threatened several times to leave. The latest such threat, however, received unprecedented attention because of the coverage given to it by *La Opinion*.

Mr. Escalante made the decision to stay on his own, Maria Tostado, Garfield's principal, said last week, adding that she expects him to remain at the school for at least another year and a half.

Corrections

A story in the Feb. 21 issue gave an incorrect figure for AIDS cases among 5- to 19-year-olds reported last year. The correct number is 242.

The name of a member of the University of Washington research team studying teacher education was misspelled in a Feb. 28 story. He is Kenneth A. Sirotnik.

In Protest, Pittsburgh Pulls Out of State-Level NAEP

By Robert Rothman

WASHINGTON—In a dramatic gesture to protest proposed expansions of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the testing director of the Pittsburgh school system has abruptly pulled that district out of participation in NAEP's first state-level assessment.

The pilot state-level test in 8th-grade mathematics, which got under way last month, is expected to generate the first state-by-state comparisons of student-achievement data. Pennsylvania is among the 37 states that have agreed to participate in the pilot.

But in a memorandum to the National Association of Test Directors, Paul G. LeMahieu, the immediate past president of the group, wrote that he pulled Pittsburgh out of the pilot to signal his opposition to resolutions on expanding NAEP adopted by the assessment's governing board in December.

Among other recommendations, the board agreed to urge the Congress to lift the ban on the use of NAEP tests at the school and district levels and to test students more often in key subject areas.

"I don't want to cause the collapse of the trial state-level assessment," Mr. LeMahieu said in an interview. "I want to underscore, in a dramatic way, that the board should listen to people who know how to do testing well."

"I would much prefer to discuss the merits of the proposals," he added. "I think they're seriously flawed."

"But the NAGB action precluded the possibility of discussion," the testing director said.

Chester E. Finn Jr., the governing board's chairman, called Mr. LeMahieu's action "odd, thoughtless, and petulant," and warned that it would harm people who are not the targets of his protest.

"If his pulling out spoils Pennsylvania's sample, the state of Pennsylvania would be the loser," Mr. Finn said. "It may be that the price for his action would be paid by people in Pennsylvania who would like to know how the state is doing in 8th-grade mathematics."

Mr. Finn also denied that the governing board's actions foreclosed debate over the proposed expansion of NAEP, since the Congress must act on the proposals.

> *"The [NAEP governing] board should listen to people who know how to do testing well."*
>
> —Paul G. LeMahieu

"A lot of people don't agree with some or all of our recommendations," he said. "But it was a responsible and proper action to make recommendations."

Demands for Data

The resolutions at issue were based on a governing-board staff paper, entitled "The Future of NAEP as the Nation's Report Card," that outlined ways the assessment could improve its data-gathering capabilities.

A 20-year-old Congressionally mandated project, NAEP tests a national sample of students in grades 4, 8, and 12 every two years in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and other subjects.

The 1988 law that reauthorized the assessment also authorized a pilot state-level test. In addition to the 1990 8th-grade mathematics test, the law authorized a state-level test in 4th-grade reading and in 4th- and 8th-grade math in 1992.

But the efforts by President Bush and the nation's governors to set national goals for student performance, Mr. Finn noted, have led some critics—notably Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico—to question whether NAEP's current structure is adequate to meet the demands for information to monitor progress toward those goals.

To enhance the assessment, the board in December adopted resolutions recommending that:

- NAEP test at least three subjects a year, rather than every other year.
- NAEP move "as quickly as possible to full state participation in all subjects and all three grade levels."
- The Congress remove the prohibition against using NAEP items and test data at the district and building levels.
- NAEP exams be revised to include "the full range of knowledge and skills, from basic skills to advanced subject-matter knowledge and analytical, integrative skills."

In addition, the board also tentatively adopted a plan to set national standards for student performance in the subjects it tests. That proposal, which could go into effect this year, was expected to be formally adopted by the board late last week.

To Mr. Finn, the proposals for expanding NAEP represent the governing board's advice to the Congress, which must authorize any expansion and provide the funds necessary to carry it out.

On such matters, "the board is part of the public, not a decision-maker," he said. "We're a source of advice. Everyone else is, too."

But Ramsey W. Selden, director of the state education-assessment center of the Council of Chief State School Officers, said the board's action took testing officials by surprise.

'What Types of Testing?'

"Our perception was that it was the intention of the governing board in December to take the suggestions under advisement," he said. "Now they are in the position, having accepted these as changes, of working to implement them."

In fact, Mr. Selden said, "these are substantial changes to make, both politically and programmatically."

The board's resolutions also violated "the intent and the spirit" of the law that authorized the state-by-state assessment, Mr. LeMahieu charged. That law, he said, authorized only a pilot state-level test in 1990 and 1992, and required the Education Department to commission an independent evaluation of the pilot.

"The law said to try the thing for five years and carefully assess how we've done," he said.

Mr. LeMahieu also called the proposed expansion "wrongheaded," and warned that it would add additional testing burdens without providing better information on student achievement.

Such tests could jeopardize districts' efforts to develop new forms of assessment that more accurately measure student achievement and help improve instruction, he added.

"There is only a certain amount of [instructional] time I in good conscience can give over to testing," the Pittsburgh director said. "The question becomes, what types of testing, whose, and for what purpose?"

'Golden Moment'

To signal his objections to the proposals and to the way in which they were adopted, Mr. LeMahieu decided to withdraw from the state-level assessment.

"It is with disappointment I take an action like this," he said. "Theirs was a political move. That's why I responded politically."

His action may not skew Pennsylvania's results, according to officials from Westat Inc., a firm that does statistical work for NAEP. Some 90 percent of schools selected for the state's sample are participating in the assessment, including an adequate sample of urban schools from Philadelphia, the officials noted.

Moreover, Mr. LeMahieu said, "I can't swear that other states aren't skewed or biased. That's a matter for the evaluation we are all anticipating."

Mr. LeMahieu said other test directors were willing to join in his protest, but he counseled against such a move. A widespread boycott of the state-level assessment, he reasoned, could encourage the Congress to pass legislation forcing local districts to participate.

Instead, he urged the test directors to support his efforts to block the proposed expansion. Noting the national interest in holding schools accountable for student performance, he said the federal government is in a strong position to improve NAEP, rather than rush to make an inadequate test larger.

"This is a golden moment," he said. "For God's sake, let's do it well."

Doubt Cast on Effects of Military Service

By Peter Schmidt

WASHINGTON—Contrary to popular belief and some previous research findings, military service does not appear to give low-aptitude young adults any advantages over their civilian peers later in life, a new Defense Department-sponsored study asserts.

The study of the postservice experiences of veterans who had scored poorly on the Armed Forces Qualification Test found that military service provided no long-term advantages, and may have even left some veterans at a disadvantage, with lower income and education levels and higher unemployment rates than their nonveteran counterparts.

"Regardless of speculations as to 'why not,' the military doesn't appear to be the panacea for struggling youth," the study's authors conclude. "Its effects do not seem to spill over into civilian life, at least for those with lesser abilities."

"[The Defense Department] does not appear able to turn disadvantage into advantage," the researchers add. "To the extent that various 'national service' proposals have, as one of their goals, remediation through military service, such hopes may be in vain."

The new findings may influence the prospects of bills that would establish military-style national-service programs for teenagers and young adults, said Representative Lane Evans, the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee subcommittee on oversight and investigations. The Illinois Democrat held a hearing on the study last week.

Wayne S. Sellman, who initiated the study while serving as the Defense Department's director for accession policy, told the subcommittee he was "disappointed" with the report's conclusions. But added he still would have "no qualms at all" about recruiting low-aptitude youths for certain military jobs.

"School guidance counselors should realize that there are jobs in the military that these students can do," Mr. Sellman said. "[Military service] may not be a better alternative, but it is a viable alternative."

Lower Standards

The study was authorized during the mid-1980's, when the military considered lowering its standards in light of the declining number of potential recruits.

Conducted by the Human Resources Research Organization of Alexandria, Va., with the assistance of the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, the study examined samples from two separate, large groups of low-aptitude veterans. All the subjects had scored between the 10th and 30th percentiles on the Armed Forces Qualification Test, a battery of verbal and mathematics questions used to screen applicants for trainability.

The first sample consisted of 311 veterans drawn from a total of about 320,000 low-aptitude recruits who entered the military between 1966 and 1971. These recruits, who did not meet then-current standards, were admitted under "Project 100,000," a program begun by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara to meet the escalating manpower needs of the Vietnam War and to assist President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty" by improving their economic status through military service.

Compared with low-aptitude nonveterans from similar demographic backgrounds, however, these men were found to have higher unemployment rates, significantly lower average levels of education, and average incomes that were $5,000 to $7,000 less than their nonveteran peers. They also were more likely to have never married or have gotten divorced.

Of the Project 100,000 veterans who said military service had hurt their careers, more than 25 percent cited physical problems and another 25 percent emotional problems as the harmful effects of service.

The second sample of 326 men came from a population of more than 300,000 low-aptitude veterans admitted between 1976 and 1980 as a result of a scoring error on the enlistment screening test.

These veterans were statistically no different from their low-aptitude nonveteran peers in employment status, occupational category, and average income. They were, however, found to have acquired significantly less formal education and were more likely to be divorced or dissatisfied with their jobs.

Military Service and the Disadvantaged

	Project 10,000 Veterans	Low-Aptitude Non-Veterans
	(figures in percentages)	
Highest level of education completed		
Less than high school	27.3	24.0
High school	54.9	49.4
Some college	14.1	16.7
College	3.6	9.9
Employment Status		
Full-time	85.5	90.8
Unemployed	11.1	8.4
Household Income		
Under $20,000	44.0	37.1
Over $20,000	56.0	62.9

SOURCE: Human Resources Research Organization

Conflicting Data

The Defense Department findings conflict with previous studies that have shown military service to provide long-term advantages to the overall veteran population. They also contradict the findings of a study of 477 veterans from Project 100,000 undertaken in the early 1970's.

In that study, researchers from the Air Force Human Resources Laboratory found low-aptitude veterans who had been out of the military for three years to be better off than their peers in terms of education, employment, income, and job skills.

William E. Beusse, a research psychologist who conducted the previous Project 100,000 study, last week defended his findings before the Veterans' Affairs subcommittee. He said the new study, conducted 10 to 20 years after most of the veterans had been discharged, may have been less accurate in its selection of a control group.

Mr. Beusse also noted that recent developments in Eastern Europe are leading to a decline in the military's manpower needs. "When the services go through a period of retrenchment," he said, "they tend to raise the standards for enlistment and retention and screen out low-aptitude men."

Nancy M. Pinson-Millburn, assistant executive director for the American Association for Counseling and Development, whose membership includes more than 14,000 school counselors, said few, if any, counselors today would steer low-aptitude students toward careers in the military.

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Trial To Examine Louisiana Aid to Religious Schools

E.D. Programs Cited In '85 Federal Lawsuit

By Mark Walsh

The constitutionality of Louisiana's wide-ranging program of state aid to church-affiliated schools will be tested in federal court beginning next week, some five years after a suit challenging the unusual system was filed.

At issue in the case, scheduled to go to trial March 26 before U.S. District Judge Frederick Heebe of New Orleans, are such forms of assistance to religious schools as free bus transportation, reimbursement for state-mandated administrative tasks, free library books, and the provision of special-education teachers.

That range of aid goes beyond that provided to nonpublic schools by any other state, according to Lee Boothby, general counsel for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a Washington-based lobbying group that is backing the suit.

"The cumulative effect of all these programs," he argued in an interview last week, "is that there is the funding of both a public and separate parochial school system by the taxpayers."

Those practices, the suit charges, violate the First Amendment's ban on state establishment of religion.

In addition to challenging the Louisiana programs, the lawsuit aims to halt the provision of federal aid to religious schools under the Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 programs.

Defendants in the suit, which was brought by two mothers of public-school students, include the U.S. Education Department and Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazos, as well as state and local education agencies and officials.

Supporters of the Louisiana system argue that the services provided to religious schools do not entangle church and state to an unconstitutional degree. Rather, they say, the programs provide taxpayers who choose to send their children to such schools with some benefits for the school taxes they pay.

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Head of Alabama Teachers' Union Tests Power in Governor's Race

By Debra Viadero

MONTGOMERY, ALA.—Framed political cartoons from the state's largest newspapers line the walls of Paul R. Hubbert's office here at the Alabama Education Association.

Some show the 54-year-old teachers'-union lobbyist in a tug-of-war with former Gov. George C. Wallace, his blond, almost patrician, good looks playing well off Mr. Wallace's craggy features and dark, bushy eyebrows.

In others, he is dangling state legislators from a string, or directing union members who are invariably depicted as portly schoolmarms. The pictures cover an entire wall and a third of another one, weaving their way around the trophy case and plaques that accent the office of the A.E.A.'s executive secretary.

That any state teachers'-union official could achieve the kind of public profile that lends itself to political caricature

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Debra Viadero/Education Week

Paul R. Hubbert is one of five candidates in the Democratic primary for governor.

From a 'Great Debate' to a Full-Scale War: Dispute Over Teaching Reading Heats Up

By Robert Rothman

In 1967, one of the most prominent researchers in reading instruction, Jeanne S. Chall, analyzed the controversy that was then raging in the field in an influential book called *The Great Debate*.

Today, nearly a quarter of a century later, the Harvard University scholar says the "debate" not only persists, but has, in fact, escalated to a full-scale war.

The battle lines are drawn between advocates of phonics, who stress the importance of teaching the relationships between letters and sounds, and those of whole-language methodology, who believe children should be taught reading by reading whole texts.

And so fierce have their arguments become that two recent attempts to find a common ground—a federally funded study and a proposal for the 1992 national assessment—have not only failed to quell the debate, but may have exacerbated it.

"It's always been, in reading, that there was restraint with all our fighting," Ms. Chall says. "Now it's as if all restraints are gone."

Many other topics in education draw heated debate, but the arguments over reading instruction—the first "R"—have been perhaps the most vociferous—and the most public, often spilling over into school boards, state legislatures, and even the U.S. Congress.

And in recent years, as educators have grown increasingly desperate over students' poor performance, and frustrated over a seeming inability to change their programs, the gloves have come off. The two sides have become intractable, with advocates at both extremes accusing each other of stoking the flames with incendiary rhetoric, rather than reason.

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Scientists' Panel Urges Big Boost In Child-Care Aid

Children's Well-Being At Stake, Report Says

By Deborah L. Cohen

WASHINGTON—Warning that inadequate child care could have "immediate and long-term implications for the health and well-being of children," a panel convened by one of the country's most respected scientific groups last week presented its case for a significantly larger public investment in such services.

In a 347-page report released here, the 19-member, interdisciplinary panel named by the National Research Council concludes that child care is unavailable, unaffordable, or fails to meet "basic standards of quality" for large numbers of U.S. children.

Among other recommendations, it calls for spending increases that could more than double the amount of public aid going to help subsidize child care for low-income families and bolster family-day-care systems, caregiver training, referral programs, and other support services.

The report, *Who Cares for America's Children: Child Care Policy for the 1990's*, also seeks an expansion of Head Start and other programs for at-risk preschoolers; the establishment of national standards to improve child-care quality; and legislation mandating that employers offer parents of newborn or adopted infants up to one year of unpaid leave.

The urgency of these issues is underscored by the panel's prediction that, by the turn of the century, nearly 80 percent of school-age children and 70 percent of preschoolers will have mothers who work outside the home. Currently, about 60 percent of all children under age 13 have mothers in the workforce.

The National Research Council, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences and Engineering, formed the Panel on Child Care Policy in 1987 to review and assess existing data on the costs and effects of child-care policies and programs.

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W. Va. Schools Ordered Closed As Strike Enters Second Week

By Ann Bradley

CHARLESTON, W.VA.—As West Virginia's first statewide teachers' strike entered its second week, the state superintendent ordered all schools in the state closed for a "cooling-off period" last Thursday and Friday after striking teachers rejected a proposed settlement offered by Gov. Gaston Caperton.

On Friday, the West Virginia Supreme Court ruled that circuit courts may issue injunctions ordering teachers to return to the classroom. The ruling followed a request by the state board of education for a statewide injunction.

Meanwhile, in the final hours of its session, the state legislature approved a $27.4-million pay package that would give teachers and

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Kenny Kemp

Gov. Gaston Caperton, right, meets with union representatives.

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A federal strike force finds thousands of minors working under unlawful conditions.

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A ruling unfavorable to Michigan's popular college-savings plan could affect others.

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The increase in the number of children served last year topped any year's since 1981.